

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, M.S. 19-31
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May 11, 1982

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-47-82

TO: ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Confidentiality of Adoption Case Records

In the past the Department has stated that agencies may arrange for contact between an adoptee and the birth parent(s) if all parties to the adoption proceeding (that is, the adoptive parent(s), birth parent(s), and adoptee) gave their unsolicited consent for such a reunification. However, the Department has recently determined that without statutory authority, the confidentiality of one's adoption record cannot be waived. Therefore, such reunifications may not be arranged.

The Department and adoption agencies may continue to accept waivers of adoption record confidentiality from birth parents and adoptees to place in adoption files. However, these waivers will have no effect until legislation is passed permitting such a waiver system. It should be noted that previously proposed legislation has required adoptive parents to agree to any reunification of birth parents and adoptees, so that agencies may want to file in the case record any consents for birth parent-adoptee contact or waiver of confidentiality received from adoptive parents in case of future need. In no instance may an agency solicit consent for waiver of confidentiality from any of the parties to the adoption action.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact your adoptions program consultant.

Sincerely,

CLAUDE FINN
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division

cc: CWDA